

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments conform the claims to those granted in a corresponding EPC application (EPC App. No. 03 016 945.2), remove multiple dependencies from the claims, and generally adapt the claims to U.S. patent practice. For example, new claims 40-60 recite embodiments previously recited in the original claims as preferred or optional aspects of the invention. These claims are fully supported by the application as filed. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments, and examination of claims 1-37 and 40-60 on the merits.

As noted above, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has conformed the instant claims to those recently granted in a corresponding EPC application. Applicant therefore believes that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5404
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By Courtenay C. Brinckerhoff

Courtenay C. Brinckerhoff
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 29,768